

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2013

**Agenda Item:** Proposed Furbearer Quota Changes and Trap Setback

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Approval of Proposed Quotas and Setback Requirement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 minutes

### **Background**

Furbearer season structure is defined by FWP Commission adoption every two years. Furbearer harvest quotas are set annually. Season structure for 2012 and 2013 were finalized in August 2012. Proposed changes to 2013 annual furbearer harvest quotas are below, with other species quotas proposed as unchanged from 2012.

Increase the bobcat quota in Trapping District 1 from 250 to 275

Reduce the bobcat quota in Trapping District 4 from 300 to 200

Increase the swift fox quota in a portion of Trapping District 6 from 20 to 30

Also under consideration is a proposal to delay action on setting wolverine quota numbers until the October 2013 FWP Commission meeting, due to uncertainties involving the harvest of wolverine in the state. FWP recommends a quota of 0 at this time.

Decrease the statewide wolverine quota from 5 to 0.

In addition to furbearer species quota adjustments, there is a proposed adoption of a 300-foot setback requirement for all ground sets on public land for identified and specific high recreational use trails.

Require a 300-foot setback for ground sets on public land for specific high recreational use trails.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The public comment period for any adopted proposals will run through 5 p.m., Monday, July 22 with Final adoptions at the Aug. 8 FWP Commission meeting in Helena.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Bobcat quota adjustments are in response to FWP regional staff reviews that include analysis of species harvest related data, habitat conditions and trapper information.

The proposed 300-foot ground set trap setback adoption is requested to further reduce conflicts between trappers and recreationists accompanied by domestic dogs. The intent is to share the landscape, associated resources, and opportunities among user groups to the most reasonable extent possible.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends maintaining 2012 quotas, except for the proposed changes to bobcat and swift fox listed above. This is consistent with analysis of existing population and harvest trend information for furbearer management. With the uncertainty in the status of wolverine harvest, a reduced quota to 0 is appropriate at this time.

The proposed setback requirement represents a reasonable and appropriate consideration to minimize potential public user group conflicts.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move to adopt the proposed 2013 furbearer quotas and setbacks as proposed by FWP.